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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 1 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — representing its King, its Government and its people — has condemned the heinous terrorist acts committed on 11 September 2001 against the United States of America causing heavy loss of life and enormous destruction and serious damage to property. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has issued a statement in which it condemns a criminal act that is incompatible with all religious values and all concepts of human civilization. In a letter addressed to the President of the United States, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques voices his strong disapproval, condemnation and censure of such acts, offers his sincere condolences to the families of the victims and to the American people and expresses the Kingdom's solidarity with the international community in confronting and combating terrorism in all its forms. In a telephone call to the President of the United States, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard conveyed his condolences to the President and to the American people for the victims of this grievous incident resulting from a terrorist act that is rejected and despised by the revealed religions. His Highness conveyed the full readiness of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to cooperate with the United States Government in all matters that might assist in the identification and pursuit of the perpetrators of this criminal episode.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, condemnation of this terrorist act has not been restricted to official circles but has embraced all classes of Saudi society. The General Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and President of the Consistory of Senior Religious Scholars has stated that "The bombing episodes that have taken place in the United States of America and the related aircraft hijackings, terrorization of peaceful citizens and unrightful killing of people are nothing other than a species of iniquity, immorality or infamy that is not endorsed by the Shariah of Islam and is indeed forbidden by it and among the cardinal sins".

His Eminence the President of the High Council of Justice of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also stated that what has happened in the United States, with a

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hideousness and extreme savagery greater than that of wild beasts, and the terrifying sights of the consequences of the crime that have been witnessed are such that the mind of a Muslim does not entertain them. He went on to say that when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia condemns such savage acts it is because it is an Islamic State governed by the system of Islam. Its statutes are bound by the restriction that they may not violate Islam. It acts thus because of the nature of its religion and on the basis of the Islamic stance it adopts because it is the country of the Two Holy Mosques. It is not strange that it should condemn abominations, censure the culpability of criminals or denounce the harbouring of any perpetrator of a crime or his accomplice. His Eminence the Sheikh added: "When the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia considered the question of the hijacking of aircraft at some time in the past, before any aircraft was ever hijacked to Saudi Arabia, its religious scholars decided to outlaw such an act. They did not differentiate between the hijacking of aircraft with Muslim passengers and aircraft with non-Muslim passengers and were indeed of the view that iniquity was to be prohibited and that aggression against people and their unrightful terrorization were among the world's greatest abominations and represented corruption therein".

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 166.

(*Signed*) Fawzi Bin Abdul Majeed **Shobokshi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative